Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form Survey No. 4641 1. Name 1520-1528 North Spring Street Historic and / common 2. Location 1520-1528 North Spring Street street & number city, town Baltimore state & zip code 21205 Maryland county 3. Classification Category Ownership **Status Present Use** district public X occupied __ museum _agriculture X private X building(s) _ park __ unoccupied commercial structure both work in progress educational X private residence __ site **Public Acquisition** Accessible _entertainment __ religious __ government __ scientific object in process X yes: restricted __ being considered __ yes: unrestricted __ industrial __ transportation __ not applicable __ military __other: __ no 4. Owner of Property

name	
street & number	telephone
city, town	state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.		etc. Baltimore City Land Records	liber
street & nur	mber	Clarence Mitchell Courthouse	folio
city, town	Baltimore	State Maryland	

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title				
date	federal	state	county	loca
epository for survey records				
city, town	state & zip code			

7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One
excellent good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	unaltered X altered	X original site moved: date of move:

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of five two-story, two-bay wide houses late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in 1891 by Henry and George Cook, major builders of working class houses in East Baltimore. The houses retain their original brick facades, which have been painted, and evidence remains that their basements were originally painted white, to imitate the marble used in more expensive houses.

The houses are two stories in height, only 11' wide (11'3" for the end houses), and occupy lots 75' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. The basement area was painted white, to mitate marble, as was common in houses of this type. Each house has a chimney stack for the front and middle rooms. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, connected by a lower molding strip, and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a row of butterfly shapes, created with a jig saw.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and scroll-sawn tympanums. Several of the original 2/2 sash survive. The sills are wood. The single light doorway transom is decorated by a cut-work band of scallops. The houses sit on high basements, lit by a double-light sash, also with a scroll-sawn tympanum. Each house was originally reached by four wooden steps.

8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify		
prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899 1900	archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	X community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration industry invention	landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture X social/ humanitarian theatre transportation other: specify
Specific dates	1891	Builder/Arch	nitect George and Henry C	Cook

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built by George and Henry Cook, fairly prolific Baltimore builders, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of two-story house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north- east of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a quarter of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$500-\$600.

The Cooks sold their main street houses in this northeast Baltimore neighborhood to mainly German owner-occupants, who received their mortgages from a wide variety of local Northeast Baltimore building and loans, including notably, many of ethnic origin, like the 21st German-American Building Association. These houses on Spring St. sold to Bohemians and Germans. Some of the first buyers were Aloysius Grob, a tailor, John Kuhlman, a bricklayer, and Benjamin Brown, a laborer, who received mortgages from the Madison Square Permanent Building Association and the McKim's Hill Permanent Building Association.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. 4641

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

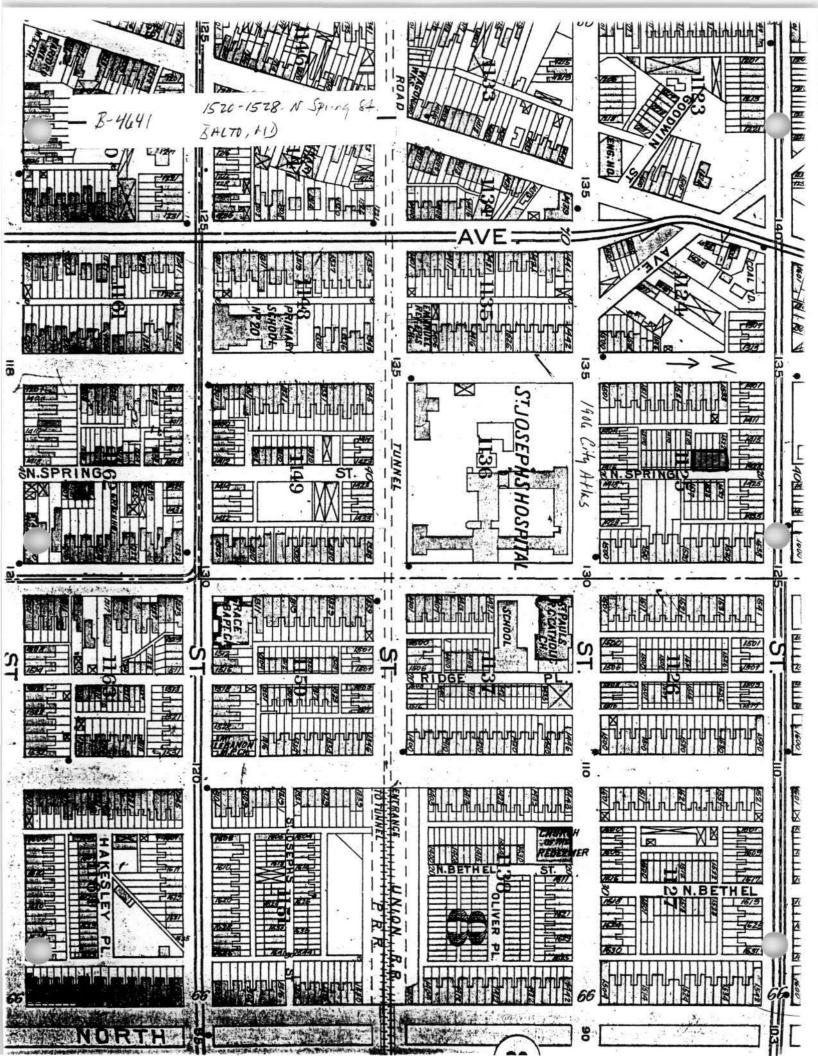
11. Form Prepared by

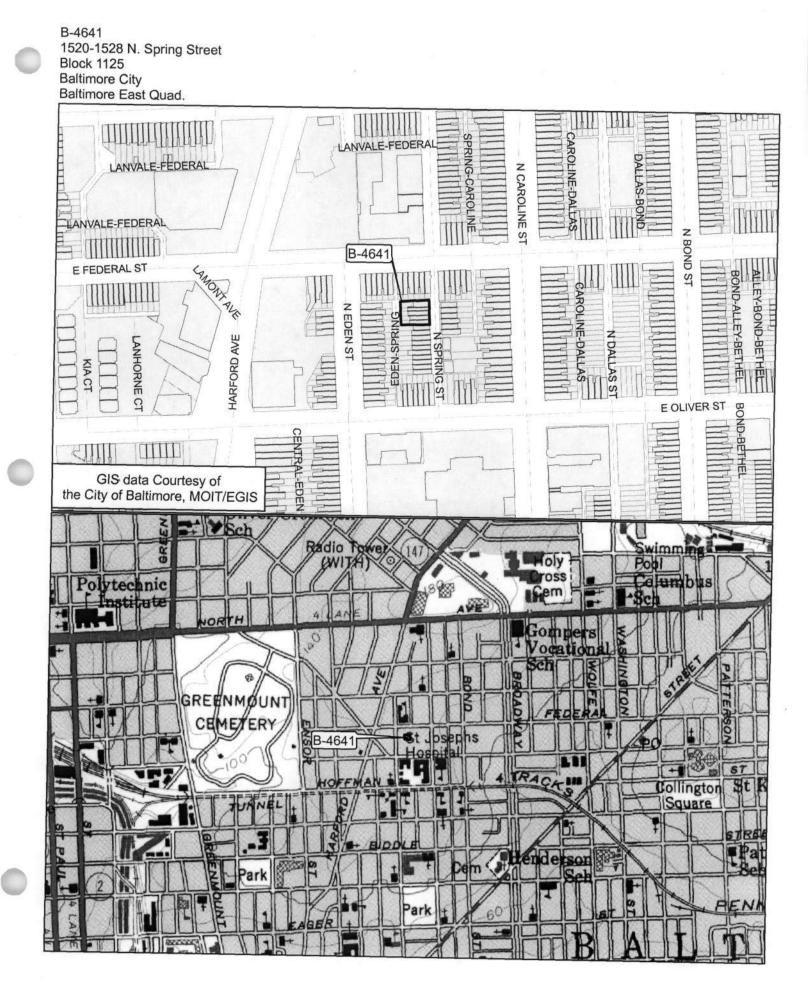
name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward	
Organization The Alley House Project	date June 1999
street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.	telephone
city, town Baltimore	state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to: DHCP/DHCD Maryland Historical Trust 100 Community Place Crownsville MD 21032-2023







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